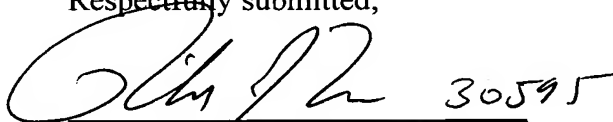


REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AJZ', followed by the number '30595'.

Anthony J. Zelano, Reg. No. 27,969
Attorney for Applicants

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Date: January 31, 2005

AJZ:aap

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